



AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

September 19, 2022

Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Bill 18-22, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment - Amendments

Dear Council President Albornoz,

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, APAB, we would like to provide this testimony in opposition to Bill 18-22, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment - Amendments.

Our understanding is that Bill 18-22 will prohibit gasoline blowers that farmers rely upon to clean dust and debris off their agricultural equipment.

The Agricultural Reserve was created to ensure that Montgomery County would have productive farmland for food and fiber production for future generations. The County Government continues to propose policies that restricts the farmers ability to produce food in a cost-effective way. Electric blowers are inefficient when used to clean our equipment throughout the day as we travel from one farm. Bill 18-22 would negatively impact our farmers because they cannot rely upon electric blowers that only hold a charge for an hour or two. It is time consuming and cost prohibitive for the farmer to go back to the base operation to recharge the batteries or to purchase numerous batteries so they can continue to plant and harvest their crops. We ask the Council to exempt agricultural producers from the gasoline blower prohibition.

We thank the County Council for this opportunity to present our views to exempt agricultural producers from Bill 18-22, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments.

Sincerely,

Michael Jamison, Chair

Cc: Jeremy Criss, Director, Office of Agriculture